

NOTiCIAS DEL OSO

February 24, 2010

#12

This week's newsletter is significantly shorter than normal - simply because I feel that you all have enough to focus on right now.

I do want to take the opportunity to remind you about TELPAS prompts. Many of you have already sent in your students' essays - thank you! This makes my life much easier, because I have more time to learn the paperwork process for this first year.

If you haven't turned in your essays, you still have plenty of time before the "tasty treat" deadline of March 1st and the real deadline of March 8. REMEMBER: ENGLISH, READING AND HISTORY TEACHERS: THIS IS REQUIRED FOR YOUR CLASS. Math and Science I need one from either subject - it's up to the grade/team to decide whose subject is most flexible currently.

Thank you for all your hard work!

Erin Van Sickle

Levels in Layman's Terms

You're probably thinking that there's no way we haven't been over and over levels until there's nothing left to learn. Nope! Below are several different levels in an alternative way to describe fluency, used by the district in an unofficial manner to provide a more specific level for each student to help guide instruction.

Silent Receptive Stage - 10 hours to 6 months

500 receptive words
point to objects, act, nod, or use gestures
say yes or no
speak hesitantly

Early Production Stage - 6 months to 1 year

1000 receptive/active words
produce one- or two-word phrases
use short repetitive language
focus on key words and context clues

Speech Emergence Stage - 1-2 years

3000 active words
engage in basic dialogue
respond using simple sentences

Intermediate Fluency Stage - 2-3 years

6000 active words

use complex statements

state opinions and original thoughts, ask questions

interact in more lengthy conversations

Advanced Intermediate Fluency Stage - 5-7 years

content area vocabulary

converse fluently

understand grade- level classroom activities

argue and defend academic points

read grade- level textbooks

write organized and fluent essays

The levels that this system roughly corresponds to officially is as follows:

- **Silent Receptive and Early Production fall into the Beginner order.**
- **Speech Emergence falls into the Intermediate stage, as does the beginning of this "intermediate" stage.**
- **The Advanced Intermediate Stage of this scale applies to our Advanced and Advanced High official classifications.**

Most of the students that we serve at Berry Middle School fall into the Advanced Intermediate fluency stage, as they float between A - AH for the final few years of ESL instruction. You may also see some of these students on your monitored lists. There is currently only one student in each of the "Silent Receptive" and Early Production" stages, with approximately 6 falling into the Intermediate Fluency Stage.

Source: Krashen, S. (1982) Principles and Practice in Second Language Acquisition. New

ESL Student of the Week



Grade: 7th

First language: Spanish

Fun personality fact: He was one of those sneaky students who started the year in a regular class despite his ESL classification. Despite the fact that he's doing well in ESL and still needs the services, he is one of our students who is truly trying his hardest to exit ESL and join the general education population this year.

Note: As MISD internet rules evolve, so does the newsletter. The omission of student names with their photos is intentional.